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Building Solidarity: a History of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local Union 1260

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have complemented the others nicely. Perhaps the most problematic result of this therapeutic orientation is that only Nicholas Weiss's article on antidepressants and Steven Novak's on LSD include substantial discussion of alcohol or other drugs as anything other than a problem. The pleasures of moderate drinking and the conviviality of the saloon, for instance, have little place in this volume.

Also missing from this collection are attempts to place alcohol and drug use in the United States in an international context. A few essays, such as Tracy's, make gestures in that direction, and Great Britain makes an occasional appearance throughout the volume, but a more sustained reminder to readers that both the economics and discourse of alcohol and drugs were deeply implicated in a global system would have been healthy. I also wish there had been more on the first half of the 200-year time frame given in the book's title. Only two of the 15 essays, those by Mancall and Chavigny, focus on the 1800s. These criticisms, however, reflect much more on the state of the field than on the choices of the editors.

This is a valuable and much needed collection. Tracy and Acker have done their job well. After bringing together many of the most important established and emerging scholars of drug and alcohol history, they did valuable work editing their submissions, resulting in essays that are consistently well written, solidly grounded, and largely free of alienating jargon. This volume is an unmatched guide both to the ideas central to the field and to its cutting edge.

Building Solidarity: A History of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local Union 1260, by John W. McKerley. Iowa City: John W. McKerley, 2004. 65 pp. Illustrations, bibliography, appendixes.

Reviewer Ralph Scharnau teaches U.S. history at Northeast Iowa Community College, Peosta. He has published a number of articles on Iowa labor history.

Labor historians continue to publish important national studies. The number of accounts focusing on the state and local levels, however, remains limited. In Iowa, many labor topics await new or further exploration. A few tracts narrating the history of local unions in Iowa have been published. The most recent addition comes with John W. McKerley's study of Carpenters Local 1260 in Iowa City. McKerley, a graduate student in history at the University of Iowa, has written a brief historical overview of the local union based on research in selected secondary works and a variety of primary materials. Aiming at an audience of union members and professional historians, McKerley chronicles Local 1260's century of development from its founding in

1902 to 2002. This longitudinal study of the union unfolds through membership patterns, jurisdictional disputes, political activities, and struggles with management.

While writing a sweeping survey of the union, McKerley provides impressively succinct descriptions of the origins of unionism among carpenters and the American labor movement. His study also raises certain local contextual questions. What was the profile of the working class in Iowa City? To what extent did Local 1260 confront ethnic, racial, and gender issues?

Studies of local unions, such as McKerley's, help us to understand how wage earners shaped the material culture and public image of Iowa communities. We need more of these well-written labor stories.

Crusading Liberal: Paul H. Douglas of Illinois, by Roger Biles. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2002. vii, 259 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliographic essay, index. \$35.00 cloth.

Reviewer Michael J. Anderson is associate professor of history and political science at Clarke College. His research focuses on Cold War domestic politics.

Roger Biles brings his considerable knowledge of twentieth-century political history to bear on this excellent biography of Paul H. Douglas, who in addition to serving three terms as a U.S. senator from Illinois was also a well-known economist, university professor, and lifelong social activist. Based not only on the Douglas Papers at the Chicago Historical Society, but also numerous other collections and an impressive body of secondary sources, Biles's thorough portrayal of Douglas illustrates much about politics in the mid-twentieth century. Biles argues that Douglas, in addition to his other accomplishments, was "one of the foremost spokesmen for liberalism in the post-World War II era" (3).

Beginning with a compact but clear account of Douglas's pre-Senate life and career, Biles shows that Douglas's upbringing (often in rural poverty), his training as an economist who specialized in wages, and his involvement in progressivism in New York helped make him an activist. In the twenties his association with the Society of Friends, his exposure to socialism, and his continued involvement in the reform community while a professor at the University of Chicago deepened his political views. By the mid-thirties, Biles concludes, Douglas could best be described as a "social democrat" with a "political outlook forged in the Progressive era, informed by socialism, and shaped by the Quaker notion of good works" (29). Elected to the Chicago City Council as a reformer, Douglas was a lone voice for reform in a body he once described as "the cunningest body of legislative bastards to be

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